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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 03642 282013Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 IO-13 /108 W
----------282018Z 013518 /50 45
R 281955Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3674
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 3642

SANTO DOMINGO FOR AGATT

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: ETRD, HA
SUBJECT: GSP: TPSC REVIEW OF PRODUCTS FOR ADDITION

REF: (A) STATE 287878, (B) STATE 284894

1. SINCE 1972, HAITI HAS EXPORTED ABOUT 500,000 POUNDS ANNUALLY OF OKRA PACKED IN BRINE. IT IS GROWN BY ONE FIRM UNDER CONTRACT TO CAPSIANA FOOD PRODUCTS, A SUBSIDIARY OF CAMPBELL FOODS.

2. THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN FOR 1.5-2.0 MILLION POUNDS OF OKRA ANNUALLY BUT THE HAITIAN FIRM HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO MEET THIS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT 1.5 MILLION POUNDS WILL BE EXPORTED TO THE U.S. IN 1977.

3. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONLY 10 PERCENT TO 20 PERCENT OF THE FIRM'S CAPACITY TO PROCESS OKRA IS BEING USED.

4. ALL OKRA IN BRINE EXPORTED FROM HAITI IS EXPORTED TO THE U.S.

5. WHILE THE APPROXIMATELY $40,000.00 RECEIVED FOR OKRA EXPORTS
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LAST YEAR IS ONLY A SMALL PART OF HAITI'S $81 MILLION WORTH OF EXPORTS, OKRA EXPORTS ARE IMPORTANT TO HAITI'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. APPROXIMATELY 500 FAMILIES ARE EMPLOYED AS SHARE CROPPERS TO GROW THE OKRA. 250 OTHERS ARE EMPLOYED IN THE PROCESSING PLANT. THUS, THIS INDUSTRY SUPPORTS ABOUT 750 FAMILIES IN A REGION WHERE THERE

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IS NO OTHER INDUSTRY. PRIOR TO 1972, MOST OF THESE
PEOPLE WERE SUBSISTENCE FARMERS.

6. OKRA SHARECROPPING IS BRINGING IMPROVED FARMING
METHODS TO THE AREA. OKRA EXPORTS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT
AS A DIVERSIFICATION FROM HAITI'S TRADITIONAL EXPORTS
OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS.
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